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WORK OF LOCAL AND SECTIONAL GOVERNMENTS PUT UNDER PLANNED ECONOMY

On 15 March the Economic Planning Committee of the Sejm held a meeting. On the agenda were local (autonomous) economy and residential construction in the national economic plan for 1949.

Deputy Gieslak was presiding officer of the committee. Deputy Kotar (PSL) made the report to the committee, stating that the economic plan for 1949 places emphasis on the need to extend and render more effective the economy of local and sectional federations for the purpose of better satisfying economic and social requirements of the working masses.

The work of local self-government has been included within the sphere of planned economy. Revisions in the budgets of local and sectional governments will be made on the recommendations of the State Council, on the assumption of a balanced budget with the aid of Local Governments' Equalization Fund.

The regular budgets for 1949 of the local governments of all types, namely, rural communities (2,989), cities (699), powiat (270), wojewodztwo (14), Warsaw, the capital city, and the city of Lodz, amount to 61 billion zlotys. The special budgets, which include expenditures for communal investments, amount to 22,765,000,000 zlotys.

The last 5 years show the growth of the communal economy. The regular and special budgets of the local governments in 1945 amounted to 5 billion zlotys; in 1946, 15.6 billion zlotys; in 1947, 34 billion zlotys; in 1948, 54 billion zlotys; and in 1949, 82 billion zlotys /sic/.

For education, culture, health, and social welfare the budget for 1949 is 56,400,000,000 zlotys, which is 44 percent of the entire budget.

Thirty billion zlotys (37 percent of the total budget) have been allotted for road building, street lighting, and various civil engineering projects.

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For administrative purposes, only 15,600,000,000 zlotys (19 percent of the total budget) were allotted, while in 1945 the administrative expenses were 38 percent of the total budget; in 1946, 43 percent; in 1947, 29 percent; and in 1948, 21 percent.

For road maintenance, a quota of 8,719,000,000 zlotys in the regular budget and 3,715,000,000 zlotys in the special budget of the local governments were allotted. The State investment plan provided 2,257,000,000 zlotys for this purpose.

Construction or reconstruction on the following will be carried out during 1949: 800 kilometers of hard-surface roads; 25 kilometers of roads with surface improvements, 1.2 kilometers of steel bridges, 1.5 kilometers of steel-concrete bridges, 2.7 kilometers of semi-steel bridges, 3.6 kilometers of wooden bridges, and 275 kilometers of street construction.

Second in importance in the expenditures of the local governments are grants for educational purposes. For 1949, 9,322,000,000 zlotys are allotted for this purpose as against 5,515,000,000 zlotys in 1948. This is nearly a 70-percent increase. In addition to this, 4,862,000,000 zlotys are assigned in the special budget for the same purposes, and 5,174,000,000 zlotys in the State investment plan.

For health measures, 7,663,000,000 zlotys are allotted. This is 60 percent greater than in 1948. The budget provides for the support of 3,990 hospitals, 54,00 beds, and a turnover of 979,000 patients. In addition to the hospitals, the following are maintained: 17 sanatoriums with 3,530 beds and a turnover of 14,600 patients; 19 preventoriums with 1,720 beds and a turnover of 8,000 patients; 1,170 health centers; and 5,210 consultation centers.

Next in importance in local expenditures are those for public welfare. For 1949, 5,606,000,000 zlotys are allotted in the general budget as against 2,753,000,000 zlotys for 1948. This is a 103-percent increase.

The local and sectional governments own 300 farms covering 36,302 hectares. Whether or not these governments should possess lands is open to question. Expenditures for this purpose have grown from 1,125,000,000 zlotys in 1948 to 2,139,000,000 zlotys in 1949. The opinion is that these governments should devote their efforts to the support of agricultural education, increase in production of livestock, and agricultural improvements.

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